



Subject:	Community Support Plan (CSP) 25/29 including a Review of Community Support Large Grants
Date:	21 March 2025
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer, Community Provision

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Information relating to any individual2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?
Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To update members on the Community Support Plan and associated timeframe to develop the funding programme contained within the Plan which was deferred by P&C Committee on 4 th March 2025.

1.2	This report will outline a suggested way forward to undertake engagement with current funded groups and a public consultation on the overall Community Support Plan.							
2.0	Recommendation							
2.1	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Note the contents of the report.ii. Note the March P&C committee report and appendices (appendices i, ii, iii).iii. Note the specific questions that are suggested as part of Stage 1 Engagement that was agreed at March P&C committee.iv. Advise if members are content that the proposal for one large funding programme as outlined in the draft CSP that will replace the current Capacity and Revenue grants and that this is consulted on in the coming weeks as Stage 2 of the process.v. Consider the options for what officers include in the public consultation process with regards to possible funding amounts and maximum limits for the Community Support Large Grants Programme.vi. Agree that a detailed update on the 2 stage engagement process findings is brought back to SP&R Committee in June.vii. Agree that the June report should also include information on the programming, footfall and activity in our community centres, as well as the total cost for running each council and independently managed community centre.							
3.0	Main Report							
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>The background to the development of the new Community Support Plan is included in the following appendices;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">I. March P&C Committee reportII. Community Support Grant optionsIII. Draft community support plan							
3.2	<p>The decision register from People and Communities March Committee states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Members did not agree a financial budget for 2025/26 year and requested that officers engage with 30 community organisations, already funded through CSP, to ascertain their current revenue costs2. Members proposed to change the application assessment to complete by December 2025, and to change the timeline for Committee approval to January 2026; <p>Following further political engagement officers are requesting that we complete the above two processes in tandem.</p>							
3.3	<p>Stage 1 Engagement with Current Groups</p> <table><tr><th>Action</th><th>Date by</th></tr><tr><td>Engagement with selection of current grant recipients (sample of 30 across city, Capacity and Revenue grants) and collation of findings as requested by March P&C</td><td>April 25</td></tr><tr><td>Incorporate findings with public consultation findings and bring final draft CSP back to SP&R.</td><td>20 June 2025</td></tr></table>		Action	Date by	Engagement with selection of current grant recipients (sample of 30 across city, Capacity and Revenue grants) and collation of findings as requested by March P&C	April 25	Incorporate findings with public consultation findings and bring final draft CSP back to SP&R.	20 June 2025
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3.4	<p>Questions for Funded Groups</p> <p>During this Engagement with 30 Community organisations who are currently receiving either capacity or revenue grants we are seeking approval to ask the following 4 questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much were your running costs for 24/25? 2. How much did you receive from Council for these costs in 24/25? 3. How much did you receive from other sources for these costs in 24/25? 4. What was the deficit you faced in 24/25 in relation to these costs? <p>Officers will ask for evidence of the above information.</p>										
3.5	<p>Stage 2 - Consultation</p> <p>At P&C Committee members changed the application assessment timeline to completion by December 2025, and changed the timeline for Committee approval to January 2026.</p> <p>Officers are required to complete a formal consultation process. However, due to the tight timeframe to complete the process for January 2026, we request that the consultation process is reduced from the recommended 12 weeks to 7 weeks (this will include Easter holidays).</p> <p>The consultation process will seek views on the following elements within the CSP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One large community support grant for ongoing activity/programmes in community-based facilities that contribute to CSP outcomes • Small community support grant for projects that contribute to CSP outcomes • Community Support Plan Outcomes Framework 										
3.6	<p>Funding limit options for consultation</p> <p>Members are asked to consider the options below and recommend one approach that will be used in the consultation documents.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No proposed upper or lower limit financial information for a new funding programme. 2. Include information on previous capacity (£50k) and revenue (£20k) and advise that this will be amalgamated into one large community support grant and ask for feedback on possible upper limits. 3. Include a range of upper limit funding between £40 and £60k 										
3.7	<p>Consultation Timeline</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Action</th><th>Completion Date</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Report to March SP&R seeking permission to carry out consultation on draft CSP plan</td><td>21 March 25</td></tr> <tr> <td>Stage 2: Consultation on draft CSP (following April Council ratification and call in)</td><td>14 April – 30 May 25</td></tr> <tr> <td>Consultation feedback reviewed, required changes included in draft CSP (3 weeks normally 6-8 weeks) and presented to SP&R committee</td><td>20 June 25</td></tr> <tr> <td>Final plan approved by Council (subject to call in)</td><td>1 July 25</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Action	Completion Date	Report to March SP&R seeking permission to carry out consultation on draft CSP plan	21 March 25	Stage 2: Consultation on draft CSP (following April Council ratification and call in)	14 April – 30 May 25	Consultation feedback reviewed, required changes included in draft CSP (3 weeks normally 6-8 weeks) and presented to SP&R committee	20 June 25	Final plan approved by Council (subject to call in)	1 July 25
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3.8	<p>Community Centre Scoping exercise</p> <p>Through recent Member engagement, officers have been asked to undertake an analysis of current council investment in council run community centre assets and bring this back to members as part of the overall work to develop the community support plan.</p> <p>This analysis will include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cost of running each community centre and total amount across the city • The number of programmes that are delivered in each centre • The footfall / number of people who are using each centre 																				
3.9	<p>Presentation of Consultation, Engagement & Scoping exercise</p> <p>SP&R committee will receive a report in June which will outline the results of:</p> <p>Process 1 – Finding from the engagement with the 30 Organisations</p> <p>Process 2 – Finding from the consultation including the question around the protentional funding allocation.</p> <p>Process 3 – Findings from the Community Centre Scoping Exercise</p> <p>Members will be asked to review the above evidence and agree a final Community Support Plan and the financial amount which community organisations can apply for the new large community support grants and small grants.</p>																				
3.10	<p>Timeline for implementation</p> <p>Members should note that there are significant tight timeframes around the delivery of above, should these timescales be met, there will be further tight timeframes for implementing a new funding programme (see below).</p> <p>Members should note that there is no scope for delay in the current timescale if officers are to meet the deadline of December 2025 for completion of assessments to the new grant programme.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Action</th><th>Completion Date</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Open call for application submissions (following call in period)</td><td>28 July</td></tr> <tr> <td>Submission deadline for application</td><td>26 September</td></tr> <tr> <td>Eligibility check applications by CGU</td><td>19 September – 17 October</td></tr> <tr> <td>Applications passed by CGU to Officers for scoring</td><td>26 September – 24 October</td></tr> <tr> <td>Officer Scoring (including internal Unit moderation panelling)</td><td>29 September – 28 November</td></tr> <tr> <td>CGU check of final recommendations and duplicate check</td><td>2 December</td></tr> <tr> <td>CGU Independent Assessment Panel</td><td>5 December</td></tr> <tr> <td>Committee Approval of awards</td><td>January 26</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Action	Completion Date	Open call for application submissions (following call in period)	28 July	Submission deadline for application	26 September	Eligibility check applications by CGU	19 September – 17 October	Applications passed by CGU to Officers for scoring	26 September – 24 October	Officer Scoring (including internal Unit moderation panelling)	29 September – 28 November	CGU check of final recommendations and duplicate check	2 December	CGU Independent Assessment Panel	5 December	Committee Approval of awards	January 26		
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	Financial & Resource Implications
3.11	Staff and financial resources to complete this work will be taken from existing budgets. The council element is included in existing budgets and the DfC contribution comes from the Community Support Programme LoO.
3.12	The CSP LoO provides a one-year commitment from DfC for funding on an annual basis, although the CSP has been in place across all councils for a number of years. Members may wish to note that in 24/25 DfC is providing £831,192 toward the Capacity and Revenue grants. Council increased its financial allocation in March 2023 by almost £1.4 million per annum providing an annual commitment of £2,446,918. This combined amount provides the overall budget of £3,278,110.
3.13	A one off annual increase to the Revenue Programme totaling £1.5million was included for the 25/26 year.
3.14	Members should note that any increases to the recurrent budget would impact on the rate. These impacts would be approximately as follows for 26/27; £1m 0.45%, £1.5m 0.675%, £3m 1.35%, £4.5m 2.025%
	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.15	Given the significant impact which any changes to the large grant funding programme will have on the VCSE sector and communities across the city, an equality screening exercise and rural impact assessment are being undertaken on any resulting change in policy/programme. Any potential additional equality considerations have been factored into the timeline.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – March P&C report Appendix 2 – March P&C Community Support Grants Options - Restricted Appendix 3 - Draft Community Support Plan